

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 18, and 19 remain in this application, with claims 4, 8, 10, and 11 being allowed. Claims 2, 6, 9, and 12-17 are canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Each of independent claims 1 and 5 is rejected, along with dependent claims 3, 7, 18, and 19, as anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,893,845 to Bartholomew. Reconsideration is requested. It is respectfully submitted that the Bartholomew patent relied on by the Examiner fails to disclose a device as defined by claim 1 or claim 5 in which a coupler comprises two directly coupled coupler halves, first coupler halves of which are jointly held in the device for providing wall ducts, are held together by a bracket which is not connected to a wall having the wall ducts, and are individually held their own plugs, with each of the plugs held in its own orifice in a wall as claims 1 and 5 define. Referring by way of example only to the embodiments of the invention illustrated in the drawings of this application, the first coupler halves 6 of the present invention are grouped by a bracket 8 prior to being mounted in the wall opening of the motor vehicle body wall 3. Each first coupler half 6 is associated with its own plug 9, and each plug is held its own individual wall opening. In the Bartholomew adapter construction, by contrast, the retainer members 76, identified by the Examiner as "first coupler halves," are grouped by the process of mounting them to the wall opening, and, as the Examiner notes, a group of two "plugs" formed by elbows 18 is held together by a "bracket" formed by adapter body 16. It is respectfully submitted that neither currently amended claim 1 nor currently amended claim 5 is anticipated by the Bartholomew patent relied on.

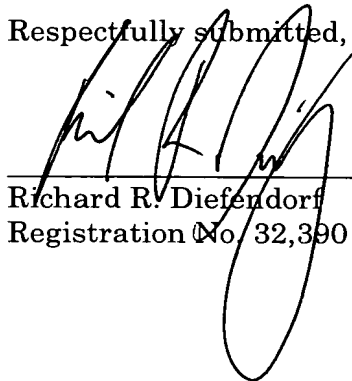
Each of independent claims 1 and 5 is also rejected, along with dependent claims 18 and 19, as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,609,732 to Souvatzidis et al. Reconsideration of this rejection is also requested. Again, it is respectfully submitted that the Souvatzidis et al. patent relied on fails to disclose a device as defined by claim 1 or claim 5 in which a coupler comprises two directly coupled coupler halves, first coupler halves of which are jointly held in the device for providing wall ducts, are held together by a bracket which is not connected to a wall having the wall ducts, and are individually held their own plugs, with each of the plugs held in its own orifice in a wall. In the Souvatzidis et al. connector, three first connector halves are held jointly in component 124 or the like. The second connector halves are combined in a housing 106. The first connector halves are not configured individually but, instead, are already an integral part of the housing 108. Neither currently amended claim 1 nor currently amended claim 5 is anticipated by the Souvatzidis et al. patent relied on.

It is respectfully submitted that both claim 1 and claim 5 are patentable for reasons which are apparent from the discussion above. Claims 3 and 18, which depend on claim 1, and claims 7 and 19, which depend on claim 5, are considered patentable as well. All of the claims remaining in this application, therefore, are now patentable.

If there are any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

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Respectfully submitted,



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